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TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Jamaica Plain

FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

1894.

BOSTON
CHILDREN'S
AID SOCIETY

TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

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JAMAICA PLAIN:

PRESS OF THE JAMAICA PLAIN NEWS.

1894.

TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

JAMAICA PLAIN FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

The winter of 1893-94 will long be remembered by all workers among the poor. Even our favored portion of the city was not exempt from the general suffering, and the Friendly Society's work has been much larger than ever before. In November, when it became evident what need the winter would bring, our Society joined others in signing an appeal to the people of Boston to meet the emergency by strengthening established charities rather than by forming new organizations. In Jamaica Plain this was done by generous gifts of money to the Friendly Society through its solicitors. Still, even with increased subscriptions, it has been necessary to use the large balance in the Society's treasury (nearly five hundred dollars), without which the work would have been sadly hampered.

In December the new names on our list were twice as many as during December 1892, and in January and February the number grew to nearly seven times the record of these months

in 1893. Many of these names were sent to us by the Citizens' Relief Committee for investigation. Our duties were thus greatly increased, but on the other hand, we were helped by the work which that committee furnished to both men and women recommended by us. Investigation became an arduous task from the large number of persons involved, and the unusual difficulty of discrimination between industrious persons really wishing work, and the idle or vicious who found scarcity of work a convenient excuse for not exerting themselves. The evils of intemperance have required time and thought, and the beggar is never wholly suppressed. A marked feature, however, of this year's work has been the number of most respectable families brought to want for the first time, and forced to let their condition be known by lack of the barest necessities. It has been a delicate task to relieve such needs without injuring the self-respect of those aided, but we always try to make friendly visiting more prominent than relief giving, and by personal relations with every one aided to avoid the harm inseparable from all attempts to be "charitable by machinery." Now we rejoice as family after family regains the means of support, and some of them repay small loans made in their time of need. Expressions of gratitude, evidently sincere, are constant, and the visitor's interest seems to have been more appreciated in some instances than the material aid furnished. The Friendly Society has been fortunate in securing workers, so that every family needing a visitor has been supplied without delay. Special conditions, such as the bread-winner's illness, or the attempt of a widow to keep her little children together, require the continued care of visitors in some families,

but the retrospect encourages us by seeming to prove that few able-bodied men in Jamaica Plain refuse to work.

Our Society gave sewing to fifty-one women last winter. This work was eagerly sought and we believe that it did much good. The large number of applicants at the office, and the increased amount of sewing given out, added greatly to the duties of our Agent, who proved very efficient.

Constant communication with the Central Office and several of the Ward Conferences of the Associated Charities of Boston, always valuable to us, has become of the greatest importance this year. We are also in correspondence with the Relief Society recently formed in West Roxbury. The Industrial Aid Society, the German Aid Society, and the United Hebrew Benevolent Association are prominent among organizations with which we have had helpful relations. Nurses sent by the Instructive District Nursing Association have done good service in two of our families. Hospitals must always be connected with our work. This year persons in whom we were interested have been sent to the City Hospital, the New England Hospital, and St. Luke's Home for Convalescents. The State House was visited last winter with the result of a passage to Scotland at the State's expense for a young man and wife, who, from illness and lack of work, found America a hard place. A grateful letter was received from them soon after they reached Scotland, and we believe we have saved these young people from becoming paupers.

The Friendly Society is again grateful for the co-operation of the churches, the physician of the Jamaica Plain Dispensary, the agent of the Overseers of the Poor, and the Police—also

for the assistance of the missionary of the Fraternal Council of Churches in Jamaica Plain. This year aid has been given by the Police and by the Fraternal Council. Consultation with the managers of these funds, and with the local Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, has proved of great advantage. "Scattered and unrelated charities run two risks,—the risk of duplicating many cases of relief, and the risk of leaving many cases uncared for at all. A complete understanding among all who are concerned in charity is essential both to justice and to mercy." If the grave dangers mentioned in the quotation just given have been avoided in Jamaica Plain, we believe it is because of the friendly relations existing between the charitable organizations here. The Jamaica Plain Gas Light Company's generous gift of coke has been of great service. We also thank friends who have sent to our room blankets, partly-worn clothing, boots and overshoes. These bundles have been eagerly opened and their contents quickly distributed. More than once a garment has exactly fitted a pressing need. We wish that the donors might have seen as we did the beaming faces which greeted their gifts.

We ask all the people of Jamaica Plain to remember that the Friendly Society is not endowded, and depends entirely upon their annual subscriptions. For years there has been a balance in the Society's treasury, which was mentioned as follows in last year's report:—"This reserve fund might prove most important in the event of the always-possible epidemic or other general calamity, when much suffering must be promptly relieved. We are proud of this surplus continued from year to year as evidence that the community has confidence in our

work." Since those words were written the dreaded time has come, requiring prompt relief for much suffering. In the dark days of last winter, when we found family after family cold and hungry, the one ray of light was our ability to give adequate aid, in some cases of illness continued for many weeks. The treasurer's report shows the amount and details of expenditure. There is now practically no surplus, for most of the balance appearing in the report will be required to pay outstanding accounts not yet presented. Though each gift has been carefully considered, and an earnest effort made to combine wisdom and economy in the use of every dollar, the emergency has made it necessary to spend the reserve fund in addition to the generous subscription of the last year. The problems of the coming winter will probably be unusually difficult, and we beg for large gifts, so that we may be able to relieve the needy, and give our time and thought to their welfare, unhampered by lack of means, and encouraged by the interest thus shown in our work. While conscious of mistakes, we try to profit by each year's experience, and we venture to believe that the Friendly Society is an increasing power for good in this community.

ELLEN C. MORSE,

MARY FAULKNER, ELEANOR S. PARKER,
S. JENNIE FRENCH, MARY H. DAVIS,
FANNIE M. HOPKINS, ANNA R. EDES.

Statistics for 1893–94.

Families visited,	143
Visits reported,	818
Applicants,	180
New garments given away,	192
Boots and rubbers given away,	93
Women taking sewing,	51
Articles made,	953

The Friendly Society's room is in Curtis Hall, South Street. Miss L. T. Blaikie, the agent, is there from ten o'clock to one o'clock every week day (except Saturdays and holidays), from the first Monday in October to the first Monday in May, and from eleven to twelve o'clock one of the Case Committee is also present. All persons interested are invited to visit the room. Plain garments and sheets and pillowcases are kept for sale, and made to order.

Treasurer's Report.

October 2, 1893, to September 19, 1894.

RECEIPTS.

Balance bro't. forward,	$470.69
Subscriptions,	1245.80
Sales,	141.59
Cash received for coal,	8.50
Collection at Union Thanksgiving service,	23.60
Returned by agent,	3 82
	$1894.00

EXPENDITURES.

Agent's salary,	$310.00
Paid by Case Committee for work,	374.00
" for provisions and milk,	284 34
" " coal,	253.27
" " materials,	230.89
" " boots and shoes,	111.51
" " postage,	9.05
" " printing,	46.50
" " transportation,	6.00
" " Conference cards,	2.00
" " washing,	1.00
" " express,	.30
" " sharpening scissors,	.10
" " carriage hire,	6.00
" to Associated Charities for registration,	100.00
Loaned,	10.00
Balance on hand,	149.04
	$1894.00

Respectfully submitted,

E. W. CLARK, *Treasurer.*

Auditor's Report.

I hereby certify that I have examined the accounts of E. W. Clark, Esq., Treasurer of the Jamaica Plain Friendly Society, from Oct. 2nd, 1893 to Sept. 19th, 1894, and that the same are correctly cast and the payments therein are properly vouched; and that the Treasurer charges himself as of the latter date with a balance of one hundred and forty-nine dollars and four cents ($149.04). Charles P. Bowditch, *Auditor.*

Boston, Sept. 28th, 1894.

Officers of the Jamaica Plain Friendly Society, 1893-94.

President: Rev. S. U. Shearman.

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Charles P. Bowditch, Mr. Charles B. Cumings, Mrs. D. S. Greenough, Rev. William Bradley, Dr. Arthur P. Perry, Rev. James Yeames.

Secretary: Miss Caroline E. Chickering.

Treasurer: Mr. E. W. Clark.

Assistant Treasurer: Miss Mary Faulkner.

Executive Committee: Dr. George Faulkner, *Chairman*; Mrs. R. W. Wood, Mrs. H. D. Morse, Mrs. A. D. Weld, Rev. Charles F. Dole, Dr. J. C. Stedman.

Case Committee.

Miss Ellen C. Morse, Chairman; 60 Burroughs Street.
Miss Mary Faulkner, Secretary; 29 Greenough Avenue.
Mrs. Austin B. French, 50 Seaverns Avenue.
Mrs. George J. Hopkins, Park Place.
Miss Eleanor S. Parker, Washington Street.
Miss Mary H. Davis, 9 Revere Street.
Mrs. Robert T. Edes, Centre Street.

Visitors.

Miss L. T. Blaikie, 86 Elm Street.
Miss Anna J. Bradley, 113 Chestnut Avenue.
Mrs. H. R. Brigham, 19 Myrtle Street.

Mrs. W. S. Carter, 42 Eliot Street.
Miss C. E. Chickering, Jamaica Plain.
Miss Mary H. Davis, 9 Revere Street.
Mrs. Robert T. Edes, Centre Street.
Miss Mary Faulkner, 29 Greenough Avenue.
Miss Kate Folsom, Lakeville Place.
Mrs. W. H. Forbes, 233 Chestnut Avenue.
Mrs. Austin B. French, 50 Seaverns Avenue.
Mrs. George J. Hopkins, Park Place.
Miss E. E. Ingalls, 14 Myrtle Street.
Mrs. James Lee, Storey Place.
Mrs. James A. Low, Forest Hills Street.
Miss Ellen C. Morse, 60 Burroughs Street.
Mrs. H. D. Morse, 44 Pond Street.
Mrs. Walter Moulton, 44 Green Street.
Mrs. Charles F. R. Ogilby, 90 Rockview Street.
Miss Eleanor S. Parker, Washington Street.
Mrs. Alfred Stebbins, Walk Hill Street.
Mrs. Henry R. Stedman, Bourne Street.
Mrs. Samuel G. Thaxter, Sigourney Street.
Miss Ellen E. Ward, Bourne Street.
Mrs. A. D. Weld, Forest Hills Street.
Miss K. R. Wendell, 37 Greenough Avenue.
Miss Caroline Williams, 11 Warren Square.
Miss Clara E. Williams, 11 Warren Square.
Mrs. W. H. Winslow, 4 Perkins Street.

Associate Visitors.

Rev. William Bradley, 113 Chestnut Avenue.
Dr. H. W. Broughton, 17 Gordon Street.
Mr. E. W. Clark, 684 Centre Street.
Mr. Charles B. Cumings, 40 Greenough Avenue.
Rev. Charles F. Dole, Roanoke Avenue.
Dr. H. C. Ernst, 8 Greenough Avenue.
Dr. George Faulkner, 29 Greenough Avenue.
Mr. George W. Fowle, 212 Chestnut Avenue.
Dr. E. P. Gerry, 2 Everett Street.
Mr. Patrick McMorrow, 171 South Street.
Dr. A. P. Perry, 60 Elm Street.
Rev. S. U. Shearman, Parley Vale.
Dr. J. C. Stedman, 116 Sedgwick Street.
Mr. W. H. Winslow, 4 Perkins Street.

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Mrs. Stephen F. Woodman
Mr. and Mrs. John G. Wright
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Mrs. Ziegler

Collection at Union Service held in St. John's Church on Thanksgiving Day.

TAKE NOTICE.

Subscriptions are collected by The Friendly Society's authorized solicitors beginning in November. A prompt and generous response to their calls is hoped for, as the Society is entirely dependent upon these annual subscriptions.